

**FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
CAPTAIN ISAAC PAINE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

January 27, 2009

Open Session – 7:00PM

CONVENE MEETING:

-Meeting was convened at 7:00PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

-The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

-Chairman Ron Cervasio, Vice Chair Cindy Bernard, and Member Dennis Chretien were present.

REQUESTS TO USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES:

-Superintendent Wallace received a request from the Gloucester Little League for use of the gym on Thursdays from 1/22/09 to 3/12/09. Mr. Wallace recommended approval. Mr. Chretien made a motion to approve the request with Mrs. Bernard seconding. The motion passed 3-0-0.

TECHNOLOGY:

-Mr. Chretien had no new information to report. Mr. Cervasio acknowledged the success of the “No School Foster-Glocester Robotics Team”, coached by Mr. Chretien and Mrs. Lurgio in their winning first place in the First Lego League Robotics competition. This team consisted of former and present students from Paine School. The students also received a \$5000 scholarship from Roger Williams College. Chairman Cervasio asked Superintendent Wallace to prepare an assessment on the benefits of having a technology coordinator versus a technology teacher and what the effect would be on programs like robotics.

BUILDING COMMITTEE:

Mr. Chretien reported that according to the Department of Education, each school district must have a building committee in place for the purpose of asset protection, such as building repair and maintenance. This committee would be responsible for the development of a budget needed to complete the repairs/maintenance. The school system is required to spend at least 60% of these monies on the recommended repairs or state housing aide will no longer be received. Mr. Chretien also outlined what the make-up of the eight member committee should be and would include various school, municipal and community members. The Superintendent will initially seek volunteers through a memo to parents.

POLICY 9000:

-The Committee reviewed Policy 9000 to ensure the correct language was present in the version approved on August 28, 2007. It was determined by the Committee that the 2007 version is correct as written.

BUDGET 2009-2010:

--Mr. Wallace recommended approval of the 2009-2010 budget. The Superintendent stated that this was the same budget that was presented at the December meeting. This item was moved to after Superintendent's Report by Chairman Cervasio.

CHECK SIGNING:

-Mr. Wallace recommended that the recently adopted check writing procedure be immortalized as a policy of the school department. Mr. Wallace presented a policy to the Committee but no action was taken due to the wording of this item on the agenda. Mr. Cervasio asked the superintendent to have the district's attorney look at the proposed policy.

COMMUNICATIONS:

-Superintendent Wallace reported one communication from Karen Shewcov resigning her position as school committee clerk, effect immediately. Mr. Chretien moved to accept the resignation with regret with Mrs. Bernard seconding. The motion passed 3-0-0.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

-Principal Moore reported that the Box Top goal was reached and \$460 was collected in Box Tops; two student teachers from Rhode Island College started this week. They are Michael Keeling and Micaela LaChappelle; our holiday "Caring and Sharing" food drive raised \$160 in donation and 230 food items. This was matched by the Feinstein Fight Against Hunger Drive for a total of \$390 for our local food bank.

PRINCIPAL'S CONTRACT:

-This item was tabled by Chairman Cervasio.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

-Pursuant to RI General Law 16-13-2, Mr. Wallace recommended the employment of the following teachers be non-renewed for the 2009-2010 school year: Pamela DelVecchio, Rebecca Sullivan, Nancy O'Hare, and Helen Dixon. The reason for the non-renewals is fiscal uncertainty and decreasing enrollment not job performance. Mr. Chretien made a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation. Mrs. Bernard seconded. In discussion, Chairman Cervasio stated that personnel, mini-buses, and perhaps separating busing contracts from the region all need to be discussed before teachers are laid-off. The motion passed 2-1-0 with Chairman Cervasio voting against the motion,

-Mr. Wallace also provided an update of expected enrollment number of kindergarten students for the 2009-2010 school year. There are 39 possible students with 2 that are under the age cut-off and 2 may go to a private school. There will be 27 students in the morning kindergarten and 12 in the afternoon class.

BUDGET 2009-2010:

A motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mrs. Bernard to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the 2009-2010 Budget. The following points were discussed:

this budget does not reflect teachers that were non-renewed; the State of Rhode Island has cut \$89,571 in general aide, \$13,665 in professional development funds, and \$27,904 in the permanent school fund. The Superintendent stated that these cuts were not factored into the current budget. Mr. Wallace also outlined some of the proposals the Governor has outlined in his supplemental budget. Mr. Cervasio recommended that the 75% reduction of payment to the retirement fund be set aside.

Motion passed. Vote as follows: 2-1-0.

Ron Cervasio - yes

Dennis Chretien - yes

Cindy Bernard - no

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

-Mr. Chretien made a motion to approve the revised minutes of the December 17, 2008 School Committee meeting. Mrs. Bernard seconded. The motion passed 3-0-0.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

-Mrs. Bernard made a motion to accept the warrant dated 12/13/2008 in the amount of \$46,585.33. Mr. Chretien seconded. The motion passed 3-0-0.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Technology
- Technology Coordinator – Technology Teacher Assessment
- Check Signing Policy
- Building Committee
- Building Principals' Meeting

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Cervasio made a motion to adjourn at 8:05p.m. Mr. Chretien seconded.

Motion passed, 3-0-0.

Submitted by Gary G. Moore